

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense announced today that on August 9, 2001, in U.S. District Court, Hartford, CT, Dr. Steven K. Brooks, Longwood, FL, was sentenced to 5 years probation, 500 hours of community service and a \$25 special assessment.

Brooks had previously pled guilty on January 12, 2001 to a 1-count criminal information charging prescription drug marketing act fraud (unlicensed wholesaling of prescription drugs).

This plea is part of an ongoing investigation into pharmaceutical drug diversion, kickback payments, false claims and mail fraud between physicians, pharmaceutical drug representatives and pharmaceutical drug wholesalers. In the aforementioned case, Lupron, an oncology pharmaceutical normally prescribed for prostate cancer patients, was diverted by the physicians, to circumvent Federally controlled pricing markets for profit. This diversion actually lowered the physician's cost and that cost savings was not reflected in health care claim submissions for reimbursement to Medicare, Tricare and private health insurance carriers as provided by Federal regulation.